

SELBY  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1949

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SELBY :  
E. M. RIMMINGTON LTD., "EXPRESS" OFFICE  
1950

SELBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman: Councillor F. Wray, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor S. B. Mooney.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Councillor S. B. Mooney.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor S. Reed.

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Medical Officer of Health:

S. KENNAUGH APPLETON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

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Sanitary Inspector:

W. LITTLE.

Cert. S.I. Board,

Cert. Meat and Food Inspection R.S.I.

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Pupil Assistant:

ERIC K. PHILPOT.

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Clerk:

JOAN SMITH.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Selby Urban District Council.**

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my third Annual Report on the health of the Urban District and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1949.

With reference to the Vital Statistics, it will be noted that the population of the District, as estimated by the Registrar General, is 10,370, a decrease of 90 since 1948.

The Birth Rate of 16.0 is a slight decrease on the previous year and is also below that of the West Riding County and England and Wales.

It is unfortunate, in view of the falling Birth Rate, that the Infant Mortality Rate in 1949 was double that of 1948 and of the country as a whole. This increase was due to the deaths from malformations and congenital causes, which in the present state of medical knowledge, are those most difficult to prevent.

The crude Death Rate was 13.8 against 11.9 for 1948, the increase being mainly due to deaths from heart disease which have been increasing of recent years.

For 1949 the Registrar General has given a Comparability Factor, a figure not available for some years past. When the crude death rate is multiplied by this Factor the Adjusted Death Rate is found and for the District is 13.1. This provides an adjustment for sex and age variations between the populations of differing townships and gives a truer figure for comparison.

The Maternal Mortality was nil for the third year in succession.

Notifiable infectious diseases showed a marked decline due to the almost complete absence of measles. Scarlet fever in a mild form was prevalent throughout the year but no deaths occurred. For the third year there were no cases of diphtheria, but two cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis occurred; both recovered. There was one death from whooping cough.

The position regarding immunisation against diphtheria is satisfactory in general, as over 78% of the child population is protected. Constant propaganda and persuasion are still needed, however, not only to maintain but to increase the percentage of immunisation.

No aged or infirm persons were dealt with under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation of the consideration and co-operation extended to me by the Members and Officers of the Council and the help of the Voluntary Workers at the Clinic.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

S. KENNAUGH APPLETON,

September, 1950.

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS, 1949.

Area of Urban District ....	....	3,883 acres
Population (mid 1949) ....	....	10,370
Number of Inhabited Houses ....	....	3,002
Rateable Value ....	....	£58,595 (Mar. 1950)
Product of Penny Rate ....	....	£221/18/8 (Mar. 1950)

## VITAL STATISTICS.

	SELBY U.D.	Aggre- gate West Riding U.D.s	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provi- sional)
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 population)	16.0	16.8	17.2	16.7
CRUDE DEATH RATES (per 1,000 population)				
All causes ....	13.8	12.5	12.1	11.7
Principal Zymotic Diseases ....	0.19	0.08	0.08	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis ....	0.19	0.32	0.32	0.40
Other forms of Tuberculosis ....	0.19	0.05	0.05	0.05
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) ....	1.54	1.48	1.44	—
Cancer ....	1.45	1.88	1.81	1.87
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	4.82	4.36	4.19	—
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	72	37	38	32
INFANT DIARRHŒA (Deaths under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	6.02	3.01	3.27	3.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of mothers in child- birth per 1,000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis ....	0	0.15	0.15	0.22
Other causes ....	0	0.60	0.68	0.76
Total ....	0	0.75	0.83	0.98

Comparability Factor 0.95.

Adjusted Death Rate 13.1.

## COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

### BIRTH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	....	16.4	1945-1949	....	18.3
" "	1935-1939	....	15.6	1948	....	16.6
" "	1940-1944	....	16.8	1949	....	16.0

### TOTAL DEATH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	....	11.2	1945-1949	....	12.6
" "	1935-1939	....	12.4	1948	....	11.9
" "	1940-1944	....	13.1	1949	....	13.8

### PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	....	0.59	1945-1949	....	0.27
" "	1935-1939	....	0.59	1948	....	0.19
" "	1940-1944	....	0.38	1949	....	0.19

### NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Average for	1930-1934	....	0.21	1945-1949	....	0.12
" "	1935-1939	....	0.11	1948	....	0.10
" "	1940-1944	....	0.05	1949	....	0.19

### RESPIRATORY DEATH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	....	1.30	1945-1949	....	1.68
" "	1935-1939	....	1.42	1948	....	1.05
" "	1940-1944	....	2.34	1949	....	1.54

### CANCER DEATH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	....	1.80	1945-1949	....	1.93
" "	1935-1939	....	2.13	1948	....	2.10
" "	1940-1944	....	1.68	1949	....	1.45

### ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE. (principal notifiable diseases)

Average for	1930-1934	....	0.19	1945-1949	....	0.12
" "	1935-1939	....	0.27	1948	....	0.10
" "	1940-1944	....	0.07	1949	....	0.19

### INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE. (per 1,000 live births)

Average for	1930-1934	....	56	1945-1949	....	49
" "	1935-1939	....	46	1948	....	34
" "	1940-1944	....	63	1949	....	72

### HEART AND CIRCULATORY DEATH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	....	2.48	1945-1949	....	2.99
" "	1935-1939	....	2.83	1948	....	3.33
" "	1940-1944	....	2.56	1949	....	4.82



**BIRTHS, 1949.**

			Male	Female	Total
Live Births.—Legitimate	....	....	85	74	159
Illegitimate	....	....	3	4	7
			—	—	—
		Total	88	78	166
Stillbirths	....	....	2	3	5

**CAUSES OF DEATH, 1949.**

				Male	Female	Total
Whooping Cough	....	...	....	0	1	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	....	....	....	1	1	2
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	....	....	....	1	1	2
Cancer	....	....	....	8	7	15
Influenza	....	....	....	2	0	2
Intracranial vascular lesions	....	....	....	9	8	17
Heart Diseases	....	....	....	29	20	49
Other diseases of circulatory system	....	....	....	0	1	1
Bronchitis	....	....	....	6	1	7
Pneumonia	....	....	....	4	2	6
Other respiratory diseases	....	....	....	1	2	3
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	....	....	....	0	1	1
Ulcer of stomach	....	....	....	0	1	1
Other digestive diseases	....	....	....	4	1	5
Nephritis	....	....	....	2	0	2
Premature Birth	....	....	....	0	1	1
Congenital causes	....	....	....	3	3	6
Suicide	....	....	....	1	1	2
Other violent causes	....	....	....	4	1	5
All other causes	....	....	....	10	5	15
				—	—	—
		Total	....	85	58	143

**TUBERCULOSIS.****New cases in 1949.**

				Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	....	....	....	9	4	13
Non-Pulmonary	....	....	....	3	1	4
				—	—	—
		Total	....	12	5	17

**Total cases on Register.**

Pulmonary	....	....	....	20	8	28
Non-Pulmonary	....	....	....	8	10	18
				—	—	—
		Total	....	28	18	46

## SELBY URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1949.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED							CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS	
	At all Ages.	According to Age								
		Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64			Over 65
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cholera (C) Plague (P) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Erysipelas ... ..	4	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	37	...	10	27	...	...	...	31	...	
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Relapsing Fever (R) Continued Fever (C)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	13	...	...	1	5	5	2	...	2	
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	3	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	2	
Measles ... ..	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Primary Pneumonia ... ..	8	2	1	1	...	1	3	...	6	
Influenzal Pneumonia ... ..	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	
Whooping Cough ... ..	30	2	16	12	...	...	...	...	1	
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Totals ... ..	104	6	31	44	5	9	8	1	33	10

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunised during 1949: Children under 5 years	....	97
Children over 5 years	....	21
		118
Refresher Dose ....	....	32
		150
Total		150

Total number of children under 15 years of age who have been immunised up to 31st December, 1949.

Age—Years	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	Total
Number ....	4	62	111	139	97	634	715	1762
Percentage ....	47.92%					96.7%		78.05%

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

### Section 47.

The aged and infirm man admitted to Brook Lodge, Selby, under this Section in 1948, gave a written undertaking to remain there voluntarily, so no further action was taken.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

(Extract from separate report to the Director of Statistics of the Ministry of Labour on Form 572, 1949).

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Owners Prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical Power	50	24	0	0
„ without Mechanical Power	0	0	0	0
Workplaces ....	0	0	0	0

### Defects.

Particulars	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions instituted
Want of Cleanliness ....	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation ....	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective ....	2	2	0	0
	2	2	0	0



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

## Inspection Work, 1949.

Inspections (including re-inspection of dwellinghouses)	1435
Visits in connection with Letting of Houses ....	134
Visits in connection with Verminous Premises ....	35
Visits in connection with Infectious Disease ....	63
Factories inspected ....	24
Inspection of Milkshops and Dairies ....	24
Inspection of Cowsheds ....	11
Street work in connection with Milk and Dairies	
Acts and Orders ....	49
Inspection of Food ....	210
Premises used for the preparation and sale of food ....	204
Pigstyes and premises used for keeping of animals ....	16
Tents, vans and sheds ....	31
Water Samples taken ....	18
Water Supply, Inspection ....	29
Rats and Mice Destruction Acts ....	353
Drains inspected ....	260
Cinemas, Visits ....	29
Other visits, unclassified, interviews, no access, miscellaneous ....	341
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Total Number of Visits ....	3266
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Housing Applicants interviewed ....	1277

During the year, 229 notices were served under the Public Health and Housing Acts, of which number 201 were complied with.

Details of Sanitary Improvements effected as a result of Inspections made and Notices issued under Public Health and Housing Acts.

<b>Dwellinghouses</b> (Number affected) ....	227
Roofs repaired and made weatherproof ....	215
Rainwater gutters repaired or renewed ....	76
Rainwater downspouts repaired or renewed ....	38
External walls repaired ....	34
Fireranges and firegrates repaired or renewed ....	60
Walls plaster repaired ....	146
Ceiling plaster repaired ....	31
Floors repaired ....	76
Window frames repaired ....	93
Doors repaired or renewed ....	20

Inadequate ventilation improved ....	....	....	30
Deficient water supply remedied ....	....	....	22
Sinks provided ....	....	....	23
Worn and defective sinks renewed ....	....	....	7
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed ....	....	....	17
Defective washing boilers renewed ....	....	....	5
Paving of yards repaired ....	....	....	6
Privately owned houses disinfested ....	....	....	1
Council houses disinfested ....	....	....	1

### **Water Closets.**

Roofs repaired ....	....	....	8
Basins renewed ....	....	....	8
Flushing apparatus repaired ....	....	....	19
Doors repaired or renewed ....	....	....	4
Seats repaired or renewed ....	....	....	7
Conversions to Water Closets ....	....	....	3

### **Drainage.**

Defective drains repaired ....	....	....	37
Inspection chambers provided ....	....	....	2
Choked drains cleansed ....	....	....	197
New drains constructed ....	....	....	24

### **Storage of Refuse.**

Accumulations of refuse removed ....	....	....	17
Defective dustbins renewed ....	....	....	146

### **Water Supply.**

All houses in the District, except two, have piped water supplied by the Urban District Council. During the year sixteen samples were taken and tested, fourteen bacteriologically and two chemically. All bacteriological samples were found to be satisfactory. Two samples of water from a well in the District were also taken and tested bacteriologically and both were found to be unsatisfactory. Negotiations with the owner of the cottages were commenced and at some time in the near future the houses are to be provided with piped water from the Council's supply.

### **Cinemas.**

The sanitary conveniences were periodically inspected. Certain defects were found, but after interviews with the persons in charge, these were promptly remedied.

Obscene writings on the walls of these conveniences by irresponsible persons is a source of annoyance to the Management and all decent-minded patrons. It seems a great pity that with the educational facilities available, better use is not made of the pencil.

### **Inspection of Food.**

Food found to be unfit: 14 cwts, 1 st, 10 lbs. 48 eggs.

### **Rats and Mice Destruction.**

Number of unpoisoned baits laid ....	....	....	842
Number of unpoisoned baits taken ....	....	....	709
Number of poisoned baits laid ....	....	....	246
Number of poisoned baits taken ....	....	....	165
Number of bodies found ....	....	....	179
Total kill according to Ministry's formula, i.e., for every body found six more bodies undiscovered			
			1253

The greater part of this work was carried out by the part-time operative normally occupied and working under the Surveyor's jurisdiction. When the operative's services are required he is "loaned" to the Health Department and works under the Sanitary Inspector's supervision. I would take this opportunity to thank Mr. Kay for his co-operation in this matter. It is possible that, in the near future, a full-time operative may be necessary when impending legislation comes into effect.

### **Dairies and Cowsheds.**

There was little to complain about regarding the manner in which these premises were kept and maintained. Recently there has been much publicity given to the question of the handling, etc., of food, and the public are probably becoming more conscious of the necessity for cleanliness of premises and personnel where food is stored and handled. Nevertheless, I have often seen full bottles of milk standing at doorways abutting on to public footpaths for quite a considerable time after the milk was delivered. It does not need much imagination to see in what ways the milk may be contaminated. Once the milk is delivered the milk retailers responsibility is ended, and it is the customers duty to protect his food from danger of contamination.

